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Prairie Poet

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James Hearst--

"Prairie Poet"

Photos by JOAN LIFFRING

James Schell Hearst is an instructor of creative writing at the State College of Iowa and has served the college continuously since 1941. Widely known in the Midwest as a poet, farmer, philosopher and educator, Hearst was born in rural Cedar Falls in 1900.

He studied at the State College of Iowa (formerly Iowa State Teachers College), the State University of Iowa in Iowa City, and the University of Guanajuato in Mexico. Following service with the U. S. Army from 1917 to 1918, he was a reader for *The Midland*, a literary magazine published in Iowa City. He served as the farm editor of the *Mid-West News* in Cedar Falls in 1937.

Hearst has published four volumes of poetry: *Country Men* in 1937, *The Sun at Noon* in 1943, *Man and His Field* in 1951, and *Limited View* in 1962.

In his characteristically humble, yet encompassing sensitivity, Hearst's collection of 42 of his more recent poems expresses his love of the earth, his rebellion and sorrows, his delight with man and nature.

He was named the Best Poet of the Year in 1963 by the Midland Booksellers Association.

The Cedar Falls poet divides his creative energies among a 200 acre farm west of Cedar Falls, his teaching and lecturing and his writing. He is married, and resides at 304 Seerley Boulevard.



He sees into the hearts of ordinary things and knows them for what they really are; not who, or what they have become.



Jim Hearst teaching a creative writing class for the college.



James Hearst and his wife, Meryl, share an abundant life.



Carl Sandburg and Hearst discuss the things they both share.

His poetry reflects sensitivity, courage and understanding.

